GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
PROVISION OF MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE
Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile telephone service has not been launched in many areas of the country, so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) the reasons due to which the Government has not provided this facility in those areas;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to provide this facility in the above-mentioned areas during the previous year and in the current year; and

(e) the success achieved as a result thereof so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 391 FOR 21st APRIL, 2008 REGARDING PROVISION OF MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(a) to (e) At present around 65% of geographical area of the country has got mobile coverage.However,location-wise details are not maintained in respect of areas where such service is not available.

Further, Government has issued 120 new Unified Access Service Licences in January 2008 for increasing competition which will help to roll out mobile services in uncovered areas. Moreover, in order to expedite the roll out of mobile services in rural and remote areas, the Government is providing a total subsidy of approximately Rs. 587.88 crores over a period of 5 years through Universal Service Obligation Fund for setting up and managing 7871 infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 States where there is no existing Fixed Wireless or mobile coverage. The agreements were signed with successful bidders in May, 2007. The mobile services from these towers are likely to be launched in a phased manner by the end of year 2008. Till 29th February, 2008, 150 towers have been set up under this scheme.